

La Paz/Mohave RPC Key Informant Interviews

Interviewer Script: We are collaborating with the First Things First La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council to produce their 2014 Needs and Assets Report. A key component of that process is identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and priorities for improving the early childhood system in La Paz and Mohave counties. You have been identified by the Regional Partnership Council as a person knowledgeable about your community, who could help in identifying early childhood system-building strategies, and we would like to invite you to participate in a brief interview. The information you provide will be kept confidential and the interview should take about 30 minutes to complete. Is now a good time to complete the phone interview? If not, when would be a good day and time to conduct the interview? _____

First I'd like to collect/confirm some information about you and the role you have with kids under six years and their families.

(Prefill before interview) **Interviewee Name:** _____

I understand that you are a *(read the appropriate category for the interviewee and check)*:

- ☐ K-12 Educator
- ☐ Healthcare Provider
- ☐ Childcare Provider
- ☐ Local State Agency and Non-Profit Provider

Could you please confirm the organization with which you work, its location and your title:

Interviewee Organization and location: _____

Interviewee Title: _____

Ask if unknown: What services are provided to Children 0-5 by you/your organization? _____

What communities does your organization serve? _____

Interviewer: _____ **Interview date:** _____

Interview language: Spanish English

Interviewee's demographic information: **Gender:** Male Female

INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS ABOUT INTERVIEW *(Respondent's willingness to participate, relevant issues in the interview, aspects that might have been difficult to address, questions not understood, etc.)*

Now before we get started let me give you a little context about the questions I'll be asking. As I mentioned before, we are interested in gathering different perspectives on the early childhood system in the La Paz/Mohave Region. By early childhood I'm referring to children five years of age and younger, and my questions will focus on the areas of early care and education, children's health care and family support. I'll reiterate this as we go through the interview, but I want to focus our discussion from the beginning on children aged five and under and their families. If you don't feel comfortable or don't have enough information to answer any of these questions, please let me know and I'll move on to the next question.

Let's start our discussion around early care and education in La Paz and Mohave Counties.

1. What do you think are the most important factors that make a child adequately prepared to enter kindergarten? *Probe:* Do you think that most children in the region are getting to kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed? Why or Why not?
2. Could you talk a little about the early care and education programs available in your community?
 - a. (Components) How would you rate the quality of these programs? What factors impact the quality of these services? What is needed to improve the quality of these programs?
 - b. (Scope and Scale) Do you think all the young children who could benefit from programs in your community are able to access the programs? Why or Why not?
 - c. (Context) What (other) barriers keep children aged five years and younger in your community from accessing early learning programs and services? *Probe:* How does the political environment support or impede these services? Does it affect funding and resources for programs?
 - d. (Connections) What could organizations or agencies do together to improve access to early learning programs for children five and younger?
3. Universal Pre-K, or offering Pre-K programs to all young children free of charge, is a topic that is receiving much attention nationally and in the state. Do you think your community is currently prepared to implement universal Pre-K, if it were mandated? ***(If informant is not knowledgeable about topic skip to #5)***
 - ☐ No (skip to 4.)
 - ☐ Yes (skip to 5.)
4. (If no to # 3) What would it take to be prepared to implement universal pre-K in your community?

Now I'd like to move our discussion to children's healthcare in La Paz and Mohave Counties. Remember that I'd like our discussion to still focus on those young children five years of age and younger.

5. (Scope and Scale) Thinking about the range of health care services such as medical, dental, vision, emergency medicine, mental health, special needs and rehabilitative care, do you think there are adequate health care services for young children in your community? Why or why not? What health care is needed in your community?
 - a. (Components) What do you think of the quality of health services for children birth-5 in your community? What factors impact the quality of these services? What is needed to improve the quality of these services?
 - b. (Scope and Scale) Do you think all the young children who could benefit from health care services in your community are able to access them? Why or Why not?
 - c. What impacts have you seen in your community on these young children who lack or have inadequate health insurance?
 - d. (Context) What (other) barriers do you think keep children aged five years and younger from accessing health services? Probe: How does the political environment in your community support or impede these services; does it affect funding and resources for health services?
 - e. (Connections) What could organizations or agencies do together to improve access to health services for young children in your area (including insurance coverage, immunizations, mental health, oral and vision services)?

Now, please take a moment to think about the families of those young children in La Paz and Mohave Counties.

6. (Scope and Scale) Could you talk a little about the family support programs available in your community, things like parenting education, home visitation, and crisis support services? Do you think there are adequate family support services for the families of young children in your community? Why or why not? What programs are needed in your community?
 - a. (Components) What do you think of the quality of the family support programs in your community? What factors impact the quality of these services? What is needed to improve the quality of these programs?

- b. (Scope and Scale) Do you think all the families of young children who could benefit from family support services in your community are able to access them? Why or Why not?
- c. (Context) What (other) barriers do you think keep families of children aged five years and younger from accessing family support programs? Probe: How does the political environment in your community support or impede these services; does it affect funding and resources for family support services?
- d. (Connections) What could organizations or agencies do together to improve access to family support programs for the families of young children in your area?

Before we end I'd like to bring our discussion back to the wider early childhood system, rather than focusing on a specific facet of it like health care or family support. I have just a couple of questions to get your insight into this larger system.

- 7. What opportunities do you see to improve coordination and collaboration across the early childhood system in your area?
- 8. There may be opportunities to partner with less traditional players or to leverage resources in your community to help improve the early childhood system. What other community organizations or agencies could play a role in attracting new services to the area or in better leveraging existing resources? (probe for less traditional players, such as County Board of Supervisors, elder services)
- 9. We've talked a lot about early care and education, children's healthcare and family support. Are there other components to the early childhood system that you would like to discuss before we end?

Thank you very much for taking the time to participate in this interview. The information you provided and your time are really appreciated.